

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

NSC-10 AID-20 HEW-08 RSR-01 /108 W

----- 103663

P R 312330Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2121

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, NU

SUBJECT: HOSPITAL STRIKE SPUTTERING OUT

REF: MANAGUA 3243

1. SUMMARY: AN END TO NICARAGUA'S MONTH LONG TROUBLES WITH STRIKING HOSPITAL PERSONNEL IS NOW EXPECTED BY AUGUST 1.

WHILE GENEROUS SETTLEMENTS HAVE BEEN AGREED TO AND MOST OF THE WORK FORCE IS BACK ON THE JOB, LOCAL HOSPITAL BOARDS ARE STILL WORKING OUT FINAL DETAILS OF AGREEMENTS WITH SOME SECTORS OF THE STAFF. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS A BREAKDOWN OF THE JULY 31 STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN MANAGUA WITH THE VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE STRIKING HOSPITAL PERSONNEL:

A. NON-PROFESSIONAL STAFF (NURSES AIDES, CLEANING STAFF,
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COOKS, ETC.)--ALL HAVE RETURNED TO WORK AFTER RECEIVING A 30

PERCENT WAGE INCREASE EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1. THEY HAVE ALSO RECEIVED A CHRISTMAS BONUS (AGUINALDO) AND RESTORATION OF THE 5 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE FOR EACH 5 YEARS OF SERVICE. IN ADDITION, THE 5 PERCENT "VOLUNTARY" DONATION PAID BY SOCIAL SECURITY HOSPITAL WORKERS TO THE LIBERAL PARTY WILL HENCEFORTH BE PAID BY MANAGEMENT, I.E. THE NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE (INSS), AN AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCY.

B. NURSES--MOST NURSES ARE NOW BACK ON THE JOB, BUT THE STRONG, UNIFIED NURSES UNION REFUSES TO SIGN A FINAL SETTLEMENT UNTIL THE GON INCLUDES NURSES EMPLOYED BY THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH. THE ANTICIPATED SETTLEMENT IS A 30 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE AND BENEFITS SIMILAR TO THOSE RECEIVED BY NON-PROFESSIONAL HOSPITAL STAFF.

C. INTERNS AND RESIDENTS--SOME ARE STILL STAYING OFF THE JOB PENDING A FINAL SETTLEMENT WHICH IS IMMINENT. THE RESIDENTS REPORTEDLY WILL RECEIVE A 30 PERCENT INCREASE PLUS ELIMINATION OF DEDUCTIONS AND OTHER BENEFITS AND THE INTERNS A 50 PERCENT INCREASE IN THEIR MONTHLY STIPEND. ALTHOUGH FIRED BY THE GON FOR CONDUCTING AN "ILLEGAL" STRIKE, ALL INTERNS AND RESIDENTS WILL BE REINSTATED.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING, ALL MEDICAL PERSONNEL WILL BE RELIEVED OF PAYING THE 8.3 PERCENT RECONSTRUCTION TAX ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, EITHER THROUGH THE RECENT AMENDMENT OF THE LAW TO EXEMPT THOSE EARNING UNDER 1500 CORDOBAS MONTHLY (MANAGUA 3250) OR MANAGEMENT'S AGREEMENT TO PAY THE TAX FOR THOSE EARNING MORE. THUS, THE STRIKING WORKERS WILL HAVE WON NET SALARY INCREASES RANGING FROM 38 TO 43 PERCENT PLUS BONUSES AND FRINGE BENEFITS.

4. HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS ARE NOW RECEIVING PETITIONS FOR EQUAL TREATMENT FROM THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO DID NOT GO ON STRIKE, AND INSS AND THE LOCAL BOARD ARE ALMOST OBLIGATED TO MEET THEIR DEMANDS. THOSE PETITIONING INCLUDE PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED LABORATORY TECHNICIANS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF. THE IMPACT OF THE STRIKE SETTLEMENT WILL, THEREFORE, BE SOMEWHAT MORE EXTENSIVE THAN ANTICIPATED BY THE GON, ESPECIALLY IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE EXTENSIVE BUREAUCRACY OF THE INSS IS INCLUDED.

5. MANAGUA'S VELEZ PAIZ AND OTHER HOSPITALS IN THE COUNTRY ARE FUNCTIONING BUT ARE NOT AS YET COMPLETELY BACK TO NORMAL. ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT THIS WILL COME BY THE END OF THE WEEK. SHELTON

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